

Board NEWS

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of:

Brenda Rosadiuk, *Board Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Ellen Aust, Shirley Caputo, Ken Fate, Fiona Fowler, and Dale Karpluk

February 27, 2019

- A report on the implications of the 45 Credit Enrolment Unit (CEU) cap by the province was reviewed by the board. One consequence of the lower CEU cap is that it limits students' learning opportunities for both academic and non-academic credits, including dual credit programs.
- The division has been closely monitoring the anticipated training expense per bus driver of the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) program coming into effect on March 1, 2019, that is expected to exceed \$5,000 per driver. The province has not announced any additional funding to support the new mandatory program.
- For the 2018/2019 school year, GYPSD's average class size for core subjects across the division was well under provincial class size guidelines for Grades 4-12. The division's average class size in Grades 10-12 was 17.2; the provincial guideline is 27.
- GYPSD is proud to nominate ten students for this year's Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award. These awards recognize First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who model commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path while celebrating the ways of their people. The awards are available to students in K to Grade 12. Winners will be announced in April.
- Verna Anderson, a GYPSD bus driver since 1980, has been awarded the 2019 Driver of the Year Award from the Student Transportation Association of Alberta. GYPSD nominated Verna for her passion and dedication for students and their safety.
- A provincial Health and Wellness \$15,000 grant will allow students from the Superintendent's Youth Council to be change agents in their schools and shape projects focused on improving health and wellness in their schools..
- Trustees shared information from various stakeholder meetings, school council meetings, and conference events that they attended as part of their governance role. Some of the highlights from the last few weeks included:
 - Luncheon at North Central Teachers Convention.
 - Hosting a parent information night on the proposed transfer of the junior high program at Wildwood School.
 - Informative meeting with Mark Smith, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon.
 - Collaborative discussions with Evergreen Catholic School Regional Division's school board and senior administration on matters of mutual educational interests and concerns at a recent meeting hosted by GYPSD.
- Trustees Ellen Aust and Shirley Caputo attended school council meetings at all three Hinton schools and brought forward parent inquiries about when the board would be approving the 2019/2020 school calendar. When announcing a new pilot calendar format for the 2018/2019 school year, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's Board of Trustees promised to hold two online surveys to receive feedback from stakeholders before making a decision on the 2019/2020 calendar. The second survey will be open to the public after the spring break. Trustees will then review all stakeholder input, including feedback on the Fall break, before approving the final calendar at the Public Board meeting on April 24, 2019.
- Trustee Caputo shared information on the division's community engagement session, 2019 Share Your Voice: Strategic Planning, at the Hinton Inter-Agency community meeting.
- Trustees Ken Fate and Fiona Fowler provided updates from their attendance at the Public School Boards' Council meeting, where Trustee Fowler attended an excellent session on 'Effective Board Meetings'. Trustee Fowler also shared information from the local chamber of commerce about upcoming community events. Both Trustee Zaporosky and she thoroughly enjoyed the excellent student drama production of 'Mamma Mia' at Parkland Composite High School in Edson.
- Board Chair Brenda Rosadiuk attended the closing banquet of the division's Tekarra Winter Language Camp, part of the International Education program. Eleven students from China participated in various winter activities and school events in Jasper while developing their English language skills over a two-week period. Chair Rosadiuk commented on the importance of the community meeting recently held in Wildwood about the proposed transfer of the junior high program. She felt it was a solid process, and thanked the community members who came out to share their input and receive information about the reasons behind the proposal from the board. Along with the community meetings, Chair Rosadiuk met with local constituents and municipal officials on a number of local education issues.
- Trustee Karpluk reported highlights from the last meeting of the ASBA Zone 2/3 Committee, including an excellent presentation on student mental health.
- Superintendent Lewis shared with trustees her team's recent work in schools around visionary best practices and instructional leadership opportunities. She also proudly shared that a teacher from Niton Central School, Thomas Meier, has been nominated for a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Winners will be announced this spring.